

***Working for the  
people and  
communities  
of the 32<sup>nd</sup> District***



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- Capital Budget
- Community and Economic Development and Trade
- Select Committee on Environmental Health
- Ecology & Parks



Representative  
**Maralyn Chase**



## 2010 Update and Citizen Survey

*Dear Friends and Neighbors,*

*I'm writing to update you on the 2010 legislative session and to ask for your thoughts about key issues. Please take a moment to fill out the brief citizen survey on page three. Your insights will help me to speak for our local values in the Legislature.*

*This is not an easy session. The worst national recession since the Great Depression has caused severe hardships for our state and many of our neighbors. School funding has suffered. Virtually every part of government has been slashed. And now Gov. Gregoire's preliminary 2010 budget shows that without new revenues (including federal revenues) further cuts will be necessary that shock the conscience:*

- 50,000 pregnant women will lose prenatal support.
- 100,000 people, including 16,000 children, will lose health coverage;
- 12,300 college students will lose a crucial source of financial aid;
- 1,500 three-year-olds will lose early learning opportunities.
- Thousands of seniors would lose "meals on wheels" and other services.
- Public safety, job-training and other programs would be slashed.

*Fortunately, we're already seeing the first signs of economic recovery, and we know that our state and nation have overcome sterner challenges in the past. If our actions are guided by thoughtful courage and confidence, we will soon overcome this temporary economic challenge with our principles and values intact.*

*Sincerely,*

Maralyn



## EDUCATION MUST COME FIRST!



*"... make ample provision for the education of all children ..."*

Washington's official Quality Education Council just released its recommendations for creating the kind of schools our children will need to thrive in the world economy. What was their first recommendation?

### **No more education cuts!**

I agree with our teachers: We simply cannot continue to deliver quality education to our students if we continue to cut education funding. We have reached a critical moment of decision. As Superintendent of Public Instruction Randy Dorn warns:

"Reform is no longer an optional undertaking in order to improve educational outcomes. School districts use most of their local revenues (largely levy and equalization) to hire extra staff and make up for shortfalls in transportation, operating costs, supplies, special education services and state salary allocations. Most of these costs are clearly a state responsibility...our state pays for too few instructional and operating staff, and ... operating costs are woefully underfunded."

Because of recession-driven budget problems, lawmakers are actually considering budget choices that will make class sizes larger, not smaller! We rank 47th in the nation in class size, and this is not acceptable.

Kids don't get to relive years of their lives. We cannot wait for an economic boom to do right by Washington's schools and children. We must find the willpower, and the revenues, to make our schools what we need them to be – for our children and our future.

## JOBS, JOBS, JOBS – THE JOBS ACT OF 2010



I hope you'll agree with me that the best way to improve state revenues and help families is to grow more family-wage jobs. That's why I'm an enthusiastic sponsor of the Jobs Act of 2010. We aim to create 38,000 jobs in every corner of Washington by issuing bonds to leverage the construction of energy-efficient upgrades at schools and colleges statewide. Better still, our bill (HB 2561) uses the estimated **\$190 million in annual taxpayer energy-savings** to help pay the bonds.

This is a win-win-win policy that provides schools that are healthy for students, teachers and the environment. Built right, green schools are productive learning environments with ample natural light, high-quality acoustics and air that is safe to breathe.

This jobs bill is built on clean energy technology and is designed to create the good construction jobs that we need today. It saves taxpayers money year after year, and helps to protect our environment for future generations.

The amount of energy saved would equal taking 105,000 houses off the energy grid, which reduces the impact of our carbon footprint on climate change and eases the upward pressure on energy prices. I am confident we can pass this reform this session.



Maralyn at a recent White House conference of environmental leaders from across the nation.

## IMPORTANT NEWS!

By the time you read this, the House of Representatives will have passed the Safe Baby Bottle bill I'm supporting to ban the toxic chemical BPA (bisphenol A) from food containers used by babies and pregnant moms. Enacting this safety measure this year is an important priority for doctors, nurses and the Washington Environmental Council.

## WE NEED SMARTER REVENUE CHOICES



We can fix our budget problems *and* help our economy by making smarter revenue choices. I'm supporting progressive policies that we should have made in times of prosperity—and that are now *essential* to promoting jobs and

preserving vital services during the temporary budget crisis. These policies include:

- Ending tax preferences to out-of-state businesses that give them a competitive advantage in Washington markets. This would not only help our businesses compete on a level playing field, it would save \$73 million tax dollars now and \$375 million next biennium.
- Ending Business & Occupation (B&O) and sales-tax exemptions for gold bullion sales and other special tax-preferences that no longer serve valid public purposes. Gov. Gregoire estimates we could save tens of millions of dollars by ending unjustified tax breaks that deliver

minimal or no public benefits.

- To promote long-term tax-reform and fairness, I'm sponsoring a reform (HB 2645) to subject special-preference tax breaks to the same rigorous requirements for efficiency and accountability that we apply to government spending. This includes audits to ensure that preferential tax-breaks are actually generating promised jobs and business growth.
- Our current system of basing B&O taxes on gross revenues is unfair and hurts our small and growing businesses. Changing the B&O tax to a tax on the actual profits of both investor-owned and locally-owned businesses would be more equitable and would help the small and growing businesses that drive innovation and our economy forward.
- I believe – and I am proposing – that lawmakers listen to the Bill Gates, Sr. Commission and allow Washington voters to decide whether to adopt a state income tax—with simultaneous reductions in sales and property taxes.

## HELP ME SPEAK FOR OUR COMMUNITY!

Please tell me how the recession has affected you and people you care about, so I can share our local experiences with state leaders. I promise I won't reveal your identity without your permission.

*Maralyn,*

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*Sincerely,*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you'd like to be emailed "My legislative e-memos"? ☐ Yes, sign me up.



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# 2010 Update and Citizen Survey

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